

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. The title has been amended to be more descriptive of the invention as follows:  
"Polymer network liquid crystal element with predetermined gap for dimming device having image processing, temperature detecting and pulse width control units therefor".

### **Reasons for Allowance**

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: It is agreed that with the reference Yanagida et al (US 2002/0097369) being commonly assigned to the same interest as the presently claimed invention (Sony Corp.) at the time of the filing date of this invention, this reference is withdrawn as prior art against these claims.
4. Moreover, as there is no further prior art of record, nor uncovered to date that shows or discloses a light control device employing a polymer network liquid crystal element having a gap width between 4 $\mu$ m and about 11 $\mu$ m; and having a image processing unit which detects a luminance signal of the liquid crystal; temperature detecting unit which detects the temperature of the liquid crystal; and pulse width control unit which controls a width of a pulse of an applied voltage for driving the liquid crystal as, *inter alia*, recited in these claims, these claims are deemed allowable as presently advised.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN HEYMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-5730. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on 571- 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2871

/David Nelms/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2871